

Mississippians' safety is a priority for my administration. November's tragic bridge collapse in Wayne County reemphasized the importance of the work that you, our county supervisors, do in cooperation with the Office of State Aid Road Construction, to ensure the stability and safety of bridges throughout our state. Brooks Miller, State Aid Engineer, recognized the importance of this issue last summer and began developing a plan to address the construction of approximately 3,500 needed bridge projects, including 1,900 local system bridges. The State Aid Engineer has initiated a loan from the Mississippi Development Bank that will result in the Office of State Aid Road Construction being able to let approximately \$40 million in federal bridge replacement projects this fiscal year. This funding will accelerate the construction of needed projects, thereby enhancing the safety of our bridges and our citizens.